

JAMESTOWN • WILLIAMSBURG • YORKTOWN
VIRGINIA
AMERICA'S HISTORIC TRIANGLE

www.AmericasHistoricTriangle.com

Media Contacts at End

**TAKE IN SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF HOLIDAY SEASON
IN AMERICA'S HISTORIC TRIANGLE**

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. – 'Tis the season for holiday fun in America's Historic Triangle, where a year-round vacation package allows visitors to take in the sights and sounds of the season with engaging living-history programs and special events that bring fresh perspectives to stories of the nation's beginnings – the 1607 founding at Jamestown of the first permanent English colony, Revolutionary times in Williamsburg, and the securing of independence at Yorktown in 1781.

The America's Historic Triangle vacation package features unlimited admission to three premier living-history museums – **Colonial Williamsburg**, **Jamestown Settlement** and the **Yorktown Victory Center** – and two National Park sites – **Historic Jamestowne** and **Yorktown Battlefield** – and modern-day accommodations for up to seven days. It's also a season for saving, as the package offers affordable options for a holiday getaway to the Williamsburg area.

In Jamestown, explore the nation's beginnings where the 1607 site of America's first permanent English colony is preserved at Historic Jamestowne. Jamestown Settlement chronicles the 1600s through extensive gallery exhibits and living history at re-created ships, fort and Powhatan Indian village, and a seasonal riverfront discovery area. In Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area and Museums, discover the restored 18th-century colonial Virginia capital, where patriots ignited the cause for freedom and laid the groundwork for the creation of this great nation. At Yorktown, walk the ground where America's independence was won in 1781 at Yorktown Battlefield. Discover the lives of people who witnessed the Revolution through Yorktown Victory Center gallery exhibits and living-history in a re-created Continental Army encampment and 1780s farm.

The holiday season begins at Thanksgiving with a three-day "Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia" event at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center and a new "Christmas Town: A Busch Gardens Celebration" debuting at Busch Gardens on November 27, and continues into December with Yorktown's "Lighted Boat Parade" on December 5 and Colonial Williamsburg's "Grand Illumination" on December 6.

Special programs in America's Historic Triangle during the holiday season include:

America's Only 18th-Century Coffeehouse Opens for the Holidays – Colonial Williamsburg
Opens Nov. 20

Just in time for the holidays, Colonial Williamsburg formally opens Charlton's Coffeehouse, an authentic 18th-century coffeehouse where Americans gathered to discuss political and social issues of the day. The Historic Area's newest exhibition building is the most significant historical reconstruction on Duke of Gloucester Street in more than 50 years. Call toll-free 1-800-HISTORY to request a 2009 Holiday Planner.

Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia – Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center
Nov. 26-28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Explore Virginia foodways of the 17th and 18th centuries during this three-day event beginning on Thanksgiving Day. At Jamestown Settlement, learn how food was gathered, preserved and prepared on land and at sea by Virginia's English colonists and Powhatan Indians. At the Yorktown Victory Center, examine typical soldiers' fare during the American Revolution and trace the bounty of a 1780s farm from field to kitchen. Included with general admission. Call toll-free (888) 593-4682.

A Tale of One City: In Concert – Colonial Williamsburg Capitol
Nov. 27, Dec. 3, 10, 17 and 31, 7 and 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of "full various and deviceful musick" performed on the viola de gamba and harpsichord featuring music by Handel, Telemann and Abel. Call toll-free 1-800-HISTORY to request a 2009 Holiday Planner.

Christmas Town: A Busch Gardens Celebration – Busch Gardens
Friday, Saturday and Sunday from Nov. 27 to Dec. 27, 4-9 p.m.

This new event creates the anticipation of the season and fills visitors' senses with all things Christmas. Christmas Town is a separate ticketed event, and will be held every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from Nov. 27 to Dec. 27. During the week of Christmas, the park will be open every day except for Dec. 25. The Christmas Town general admission ticket price is \$19.95. For information, visit www.christmastown.com.

Christmastide at Home – Colonial Williamsburg Greenhow Lumber House

Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 7- 8, 11-12, 14-15, 18-19, 21-22, 24-29 and 31, and Jan. 1. Tours every 15 minutes, 7-9 p.m.

Discover colonial traditions and customs, learn about the first Christmas tree in Williamsburg and about Christmas traditions at Colonial Williamsburg. Call toll-free 1-800-HISTORY to request a 2009 Holiday Planner.

Kid's Holiday Weekends – Colonial Williamsburg

Nov. 28-29, Dec. 12-13 and 19-20, and Jan. 2-3.

Explore how 18th-century families celebrated special occasions, including expanded programs on seasonal traditions such as harvests, Christmas, New Year's and Twelfth Night. Programs include: dressing up for the holidays; 18th-century music, dance, storytelling and a puppet show; celebrating several religious traditions; singing carols; preparing for life passages and children's moral education; participating in food preparation; leisure activities; and introduction to British holiday traditions. Call toll-free 1-800-HISTORY to request a 2009 Holiday Planner.

Christmas Decorations Walking Tour – Colonial Williamsburg Greenhow Lumber House

Nov. 29-Jan. 2: 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.; Dec. 5: 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.; Dec. 6: 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; and Dec. 25: 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

A guided look at Colonial Williamsburg's picturesque building exteriors and streets decked in holiday splendor. Learn about the materials, construction techniques and traditions of Colonial Williamsburg decorations. Ticket price is \$10 with a general admission ticket. Call toll-free 1-800-HISTORY to request a 2009 Holiday Planner.

A Christmas Tale – Colonial Williamsburg Raleigh Tavern

Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24 and 31 and Jan. 1, 10:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Celebrate the season with a sampling of the music, theater and dance that delighted generations past. Even if you couldn't go see a play, a concert or ball, music, play scripts and dancing enlivened gatherings this time of year as well as year-round. Call toll-free 1-800-HISTORY to request a 2009 Holiday Planner.

A Colonial Christmas – Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center

December 1-January 3, 2010, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Experience 17th and 18th century holiday traditions. At Jamestown Settlement, a film and special guided tours compare and contrast English Christmas customs of the period with how the season may have been observed in the difficult years of the Jamestown colony. At the Yorktown Victory Center, hear accounts of Christmas and winter in military encampments during the American Revolution, and glimpse holiday preparations on a 1780s Virginia farm. Included with general admission. Call toll-free (888) 593-4682.

Illumination and Christmas Tree Lighting – Yorktown

December 4, 7:30 p.m.

The holiday lights go on and the festive season begins at 6:30 p.m. with entertainment at the Yorktown Victory Monument followed by the Procession of Lights through historic Yorktown to Riverwalk Landing. The tree lighting ceremony at 7:30 p.m. includes holiday entertainment and a visit from Santa. Free. Call (757) 890-3500.

Yorktown Christmas Market on Main Street – Yorktown

December 5, 10 a.m.-4p.m.

The fourth-annual Christmas Market features demonstrations, musical entertainment, living-history exhibits, arts and crafts, roasted chestnuts and more. Free. Call (757) 890-3500.

Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade – Yorktown waterfront

December 5, 7 p.m.

Decorated in holiday spirit, area boaters parade the York River in competition for “Best of Show.” Beginning at 6 p.m., enjoy hot cider and musical performances in the glow of a beach bonfire while awaiting the parade of lights. Free. Call (757) 890-4970.

Cookies With Santa – Gallery at York Hall in Yorktown

December 6, 1-4 p.m.

Families can enjoy cookies with Santa and do some holiday shopping. Free. Call (757) 890-4490.

Grand Illumination – Colonial Williamsburg

December 6

In the 18th century, illuminations were sometimes held to commemorate the birth of the reigning sovereign. Today, Grand Illumination commemorates the birth of the King of Kings. Musical performances from multiple stages and fireworks displays from three different locations throughout the Historic Area. Call toll-free 1-800-HISTORY to request a 2009 Holiday Planner.

Illuminations of Historic Buildings – Colonial Williamsburg

December 10, 22 and 27 (Taverns); December 15 and 20 (Market Square); December 12, 19 and 26 (Palace Green); December 17 and 29 (Capitol), 5:30 p.m.

Flickering cresset light marks destinations on these narrated tours of Historic Area neighborhoods. Fife and drum music is featured. No ticket or reservation required. Call toll-free 1-800-HISTORY.

Caroling – Colonial Williamsburg

December 11, 18 and 23 (Courthouse); December 12 and 19 (Robert Carter House); December 17 (Wetherburn’s Tavern); December 20 (Palmer House near Capitol), 6 p.m.

Join in to sing songs of the holiday season. Call toll-free 1-800-HISTORY to request a 2009 Holiday Planner.

Yorktown Market Days at the River – Riverwalk Landing in Yorktown

December 12, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Located on the banks of the York River, the market features local produce, fresh meat and seafood, baked goods, herbs, specialty cut flowers, handmade soaps, quality art and live musical entertainment. Free. Call (757) 890-3500.

Toyland Parade – Riverwalk Landing in Yorktown

December 12, 1 p.m.

Enjoy seasonal activities, holiday music and a parade. Participate by decorating a stroller or wagon, dress in seasonal attire, and join in the festive parade. Additional activities include a visit from Santa, Mrs. Claus Storytelling show and a ride on the “Polar Express.” Free. Call (757) 890-3500.

Firing of the Christmas Guns – Colonial Williamsburg

December 24, 5 p.m.

During the 18th century, it was customary for Virginians to fire their guns in salute to the Christmas season as an expression of joy and celebration. This 30-minute event is re-created in the area of Palace Green and the Magazine. Call toll-free 1-800-HISTORY to request a 2009 Holiday Planner.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony – Colonial Williamsburg

December 24, 5:30 p.m.

Gather at the Courthouse steps on Duke of Gloucester Street for the annual illumination of Williamsburg's tree and the traditional retelling of the story of the city's first Christmas tree, followed by participants lighting individual candles. Co-sponsored by Colonial Williamsburg and the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg. No ticket or reservation required. Call toll-free 1-800-HISTORY to request a 2009 Holiday Planner.

Williamsburg's First Night Celebration – Downtown Williamsburg

December 31

First Night is an annual family-oriented, non-alcoholic New Year's Eve celebration. Welcome the New Year with a variety of entertainment at Colonial Williamsburg and the College of William and Mary, concluding with a grand finale fireworks display at midnight. Separate ticket required. Call (757) 258-5153.

The America's Historic Triangle Vacation Package includes lodging at one of a variety of Williamsburg area accommodations and unlimited visits with free parking to Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown Settlement, Colonial Williamsburg, Yorktown Battlefield and the Yorktown Victory Center during the package stay for up to seven days. Holiday packages start at \$159 per person, based on a double occupancy, with a minimum two-night stay. A separate America's Historic Triangle attraction admission ticket is available at \$80.25 for adults (ages 18 and older) and \$33.25 for children (ages 6-17).

For more information about America's Historic Triangle Vacation Package, visit www.AmericasHistoricTriangle.com or call 1-800-495-8804. For information about America's Historic Triangle Ticket, visit www.historyisfun.org/Vacation-Packages.htm.

MEDIA CONTACTS FOR “AMERICA’S HISTORIC TRIANGLE” DESTINATIONS:

Colonial Williamsburg

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Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center

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9/2009